

Serial No. 09/807,658
Art Unit 1742

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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10-36 are pending in the above-captioned matter. By this amendment, claims 1, 25, 31, 35 and 36 have been amended. After entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 10-36 are pending, claims 1, 25, 31 and 35 being independent. No new matter has been added. Remarks made herein are based on the claims as amended hereby.

35 USC §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 10-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sako et al. (US 4,954,372) in view of Japanese Patent JP 07-116527 A.

The '372 patent teaches a hydrophilicizing composition that relies upon chromium, either in the composition or in another treatment step, for corrosion resistance. This is chromium based technology that teaches away from applicants' invention. Each and every example has chromium in it. In contrast, applicants claims 1, 25, and 31 are directed to chromium free compositions, while claim 35 is directed to compositions which do not contain the acrylamide structure taught as component a) in the '372 patent.

JP '572 is directed to a chrome free hydrophilicizing composition which requires acrylic acid polymer and silicon. This is different from applicants' invention and the '372 patent. Specifically taught is the use of alkali metal silicate, a source of odor in hydrophilicizing compositions, in claim 3, which teaches against applicants invention. None of the Examples teach the use of Zr or Ti.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in either reference of how to modify the '372 patent to achieve Applicants' invention as claimed. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 USC §103 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks contained

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herein, a copy of the claims showing the amendments made is attached hereto as an appendix. Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary K. Cameron
(Reg. No. 34,789)
Attorney for Applicants
248-589-5672

Henkel Corporation
Law Department
2500 Renaissance Boulevard, Suite 200
Gulph Mills, PA 19406